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Barrh 42100**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT****1. HEADING**

Date: June 29, 2000
Subject: Forrestville Avenue Mercury Spill, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
From: Kenneth Theisen, OSC, U.S. EPA Region 5, Emergency Response Division, Chicago, IL

To: R. Karl, Chief, ERB, Chicago, IL(E-mail)
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POLREP Number: POLREP 1 (Initial&Final)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No: N/A
Task Order #:
Response Authority: CERCLA (ERB)
CERCLIS No.: N/A

Start (Mobilization) Date: 6/1/00
Completion Date: 6/1/00
Demobilization Date: 6/1/00
NPL Status: Non-NPL

III. SITE INFORMATION

On The morning of June 1, 2000, the City of Chicago's Department of Environment requested that U.S. EPA respond to the Forrestville Avenue Mercury Site which is a two bedroom, third floor apartment located at 4541 South Forrestville Avenue in the City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. U.S EPA Federal On-Scene-Coordinator (OSC) Kenneth Theisen and Start member Garth Daley arrived at the site at approximately 1330 hours and, after initiating the Jerome X-431 Mercury Vapor Analyzer (Jerome MVA), performed a preliminary reconnaissance of the site. The reconnaissance included OSC Theisen interviewing Mrs. Angela Payne, a resident of the apartment, to determine how the spill occurred. Mrs. Payne told OSC Theisen that her daughter had accidentally dropped a blood pressure cuff at approximately 2000 hours on Wednesday, May 31, 2000, while returning the device to Mrs. Payne's bedroom. Mercury from the broken device leaked into spaces between the floorboards of the bedroom floor. Mrs. Payne covered the spill area using garbage bags and contacted the City of Chicago's Department of Environment to report the incident.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

Following the interview, Mrs. Payne directed START and U.S.EPA to the spill location. START then used the Jerome MVA to perform air monitoring throughout the apartment. The Jerome MVA readings collected in the area where the spill occurred (0.00889 mg/m^3) and the area above the spill location (0.00109 mg/m^3) exceeded the residential cleanup standard of 0.0003 mg/m^3 . Based on the inaccessibility of the spilled mercury (between the floorboards), the levels of mercury vapor detected immediately above the spill location, the presence of children in the residence and Mrs. Payne being nine months pregnant, OSC Theisen determined that a removal action was necessary. An Emergency

Response and Removal Support contractor was contacted and scheduled to initiate the necessary removal activities on Friday, June 2, 2000. In preparation for removal activities, U.S. EPA and START used duct tape to seal both doors leading into the affected bedroom and opened the bedroom windows to afford overnight ventilation. On Friday, June 2, 2000, OSCs Theisen and Thomas Cook, U.S. EPA Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Louise Fabinski, and START Daley returned to the site in response to a telephone call from a person claiming to be the building owner. The person alleged that the spill had been remediated and directed U.S. EPA not to return to the site. U.S. EPA and START arrived on site at approximately 1210 hours, but were unable to access the site. Subsequently, ATSDR Fabinski left informational package for Mrs. Payne in an attempt to convince her to contact U.S. EPA to arrange for proper remediation of the mercury release. Despite ATSDR Fabinski having left several telephone messages, as of Monday, June 19, 2000 Mrs. Payne has not contacted either OSC Theisen or ATSDR Fabinski.

V. NEXT STEPS

U.S. EPA has determined that no additional removal activities will be performed at the site unless requested by the resident or Chicago Department of Environment.